MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 AUGUST 1983

Lebanon

Political Moves — As part of the government's efforts to reach a national accord, a three-man ministerial committee met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in northern Lebanon, Beirut radio stated. The officials discussed the Israeli withdrawal and the situation in the Ash-Shuf area, the partial IDF withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River, and ways to convene a national conference on uniting the country, the radio added. Karami told the committee that the joint Israeli-Lebanese agreement should not be torn up and that all militias should be dissolved, a related Beirut radio report said. Following the meeting with Franjiyah, Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs 'Adnan Muruwwah told Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon that the government does not intend to send the Army into the Ash-Shuf Mountains before reconciliation is achieved. He also called the response to the meetings "positive."

Ash-Shuf Withdrawal — Israeli Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi confirmed that the IDF will withdraw within the "next few days," according to Jerusalem radio's English service. This statement followed an IDF spokesman's denial of a report broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that the IDF was to withdraw on 21 August, the radio stated. Meanwhile, IDF units in the Ash-Shuf are continuing preparations to evacuate the area while work continues on the new deployment line along the Al-Awwali River in southern Lebanon, the Israeli paper *Ha'aretz* reported.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem cited by *Ma'ariv* fear a general conflagration between the Druze and Phalangist forces in the area if reconciliation attempts continue to fail. Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt reiterated in a statement cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio that the PSP will not accept the Army's entry until an agreement has been reached. Meanwhile, sniping and shelling stopped in the Ash-Shuf after a second cease-fire was declared on 22 August, according to Beirut radio. The government contacted the nations participating in the multinational force in a bid to ease the Lebanese Army deployment in the mountains, the radio announced. In a statement quoted by SANA, the PSP said Druze forces took over a Lebanese Army garrison to prevent the Army and Phalangist militias from using the arms stored there against them.

Talas Visit to Al-Biqa' — Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un denounced the 20 August visit by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas to the Al-Biqa' valley and his meeting with Walid Junblatt, the Voice of Lebanon reported.

McFarlane Mission — U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Cairo over the weekend, MENA reported. Both officials stressed Egypt's commitment to helping Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation and stability, MENA added.

In Damascus, talks between Syrian experts and State Department legal adviser Davis Robinson on the Israeli-Lebanese accord are a "total failure," according to a "well-informed" source cited by a Radio Monte Carlo correspondent. The talks were suspended because the Syrian side adhered to the view that the accord is an "agreement of submission" and encroaches on Lebanon's sovereignty as well as Syria's security, the correspondent added. In a commentary reported by SANA, the Syrian paper *Tishrin* asserted that the joint agreement turns Lebanon into an Israeli "protectorate" on Syria's western flank, which is intolerable. No one can make Syria change its mind about the agreement, the commentary said.

PLO Affairs

Fatah loyalists and dissidents have confirmed their commitment to a cease-fire, a PLO reconciliation committee statement cited by KUNA reported. A memorandum prepared by the committee called for a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee to discuss military appointments and political stands acceptable to both sides, KUNA added. However, a dissident spokesman told KUNA that the movement rejected this call because the Central Committee only had two dissident members in it, which would predispose any decisions toward the loyalists. Instead, the movement will stick by its demand that an emergency Fatah leadership be formed until a Fatah general conference can be held, the spokesman stated.

PLO Executive Committee member Faruq Qaddumi told the Vienna paper *Arbeiter-Zeitung* that Syria remains an important base for the PLO and that he does not believe that Syria wants to dominate the PLO through the dissident movement. Mahmud al-Labadi, former official spokesman for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat — now with the Fatah dissidents — also denied Syrian involvement in the movement and stated in an interview broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo that the fault lies within Fatah itself. The dissident figure also denied that PFLP-General Commander As-Sa'iqah forces had fought with the opposition group and claimed that the Syrian forces had been neutral.

Both Israel and Fatah dissidents denied responsibility for the Athens assassination of an aide to Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander of the PLO armed forces, Jerusalem Radio and ANSA announced. An anonymous phone caller told the AFP office in Tunis that the "movement for rebuilding Fatah" was responsible, while the north Lebanon Voice of Lebanon radio blamed "Zionist Mosad" agents for the murder. Clashes erupted in the Al-Biqa' between various Palestinian groups, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio attributed increased tension in the area to the official's assassination.

Egypt

An Israeli agreement to leave Lebanon using a timetable may "thaw the freeze" on the question of Egypt's reviewing its decision to recall its envoy from Israel, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told the Israeli paper *'Al Hamishmar*.

Jordan

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and his Soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko stressed the need for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis and for efforts for a just peace in the region in cables exchanged on the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations, according to Amman radio. Meanwhile, the *Jordan Times* urged Arabs to insist on bringing the USSR into the Middle East peace process. In an editorial, the paper maintained that U.S. policies promote the need for Soviet involvement and that efforts should be doubled to give the USSR a "balancing role" in the region.

West Bank

Some 1,600 families are moving to "Judaea and Samaria" in response to a settlement drive, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, a *Jerusalem Post* commentary decried the "de facto annexation" of the area by the government and the "double standard" in justice prevailing in the West Bank. The paper urged the government opposition parties to speak out against the government's violation of human rights in the West Bank.

Libya-Chad

French military aircraft — six Jaguars, four Mirage jets, and one refuelling aircraft — arrived in Ndjamena from the Central African Republic with two of the Jaguar fighters later leaving the Chadian capital, Paris radio and AFP reported. A French military source cited by AFP stated that the mission of these aircraft is to "defend French positions if they are attacked." A French military spokesman also announced that 160 French Legionnaires are due to arrive to support President Hissein Habre's troops in eastern Chad as the president fears a Libyan attack south of Faya-Largeau, Paris radio stated. Over 3,000 Libyan troops have been amassed in the Aouzou Strip in northern Chad and are reinforcing their presence in Faya-Largeau, according to "well-informed Western diplomatic sources" quoted by SUNA.

In Paris, the Transitional National Union Government information minister told Paris radio that the French presence will be welcomed only if it contributes to helping the Chadian parties find a lasting and just solution. Former President Goukouni Oueddei also sent a letter to the OAU, stating his readiness to discuss peace, JANA reported.

Western Sahara

The Western Sahara is Moroccan territory and "will remain so," Moroccan King Hassan II asserted in a speech broadcast by Rabat radio. Morocco wants this to be recognized internationally and is ready to hold a referendum in the area, the king stated. Anyone trying to obstruct such a referendum is only afraid of the results, King Hassan contended. Responding to the king's referendum remarks, a Saharan Democratic Arab Republic communique maintained that although the king spoke of a referendum, he still refuses to hold vital direct negotiations between the two parties in the conflict — Polisario and Morocco, according to Algiers radio. Meanwhile, Polisario claimed in a communique reported by AFP and APS that they had captured all the Moroccan positions in the Ouarkziz Mountains.

Yemen

PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih attended meetings of the Supreme Yemeni Council in San'a' where they discussed policy coordination and cooperation in various areas, a joint statement on the meetings broadcast by San'a radio announced. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to uniting Yemen, the statement added. A joint committee formed by the Supreme Yemeni Council also met in San'a' where it approved customs exemptions and moves to facilitate movement between the two countries, Aden radio stated. The committee also decided to form a joint subcommittee on trade, the radio added.

Iran

President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i arrived in Mashhad for celebrations to honor the birthday of the eighth imam, according to Tehran radio. However, the clandestine Radio Iran and Free Voice of Iran radio claimed that demonstrations in Mashhad against the government and for the imprisoned Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi had prompted the visit. Radio Iran also asserted that antiwar feeling is sweeping northern cities while tribes in the south have declared their support for the resistance movement led by Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar.

Pakistan

Antigovernment clashes and general strikes combined with a "voluntary arrest" campaign continued in southern Pakistan as part of a civil disobedience campaign against the martial law imposed by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in 1977, AFP reported. Thousands of people have been arrested, including top opposition leaders, and many have been sentenced by martial law courts, AFP said. A spokesman for the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy stated that the movement will boycott the local elections to be held next month, according to AFP.

Afghanistan

Leaders of three moderate Afghan rebel groups met in Rome to discuss the creation of a "united Islamic front," according to SPA. Sources did not rule out the possibility of a government-in-exile being formed at a conference later this year, SPA added. Meanwhile, joint DRA-Soviet forces "brutally attacked" Herat and 16 villages "last week," using MIG fighters, helicopters, and tanks, IRNA stated.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Keshtmand Visits Air Defense University 20 August

LD202359 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers,today took part in the party activists session of the General Command of the Air Force and Air Defense and visited the Air and Air Defense University.

Brigadier General Mohammad Yasin Sadiqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army Political Affairs Department, also attended this session which was held in support of the resolutions of the 12th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee in the garrison of that command.

At the beginning of the session, Brigadier General Nazar Mohammad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and general commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, read out the main report of the session and spoke on the pressing tasks of the Air Force and Air Defense in the present situation of the country.

The general commander of the Air Force and Air Defense at the end of the report assured the Politburo and the PDPA Central Committee; the Revolutionary Council; Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, that they would not spare any efforts for the realization of the resolutions of the 12th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

The BAKHTAR correspondents reports that at the end of the session, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand assessed positively the work of the session and pointed out the important duties of the participants in the session in the construction of a new society in Afghanistan.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said that the victories you have achieved and the shortcomings, which exist in your work, have been realistically reflected in the main report of the session, but we should not forget that the sincere and disinterested scientific and technical assistance of the friendly country, the Soviet Union, play an important role in these victories and is much appreciated. The people of Afghanistan will gratefully recall this great assistance.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressing the audience, added that to prevent deficiencies in party and political work and activities, to enhance the combat capibilities of your units and companies, and to consolidate and unify the ranks of the party, you should act according to the standards and principles of the internal life of the party,that is, according to the charter of the party.

It is only in this way that you will be able to consolidate the organic unity in the ranks of the party.

Soldiers Interviewed on Antirebel Operations

LD202144 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Dear listeners of Radio Afgnanistan, as you know, Khak-e Jabar subdistrict in Bagram District, Kabul Province, during the past week witnessed the relentless struggle of the (? personnel) of the Army, the sarandoy, the KHAD, party activists, members of the DYOA, and revolution guards, as a result of which large quantities of weapons and equipment were captured by the security forces from the agents of imperialism, these servants of the dollar and the kaldar.

As a result of these operations, so far 8 new Egyptian antiaircraft missiles, 4 communication units, 13 12.7-mm Chinese, Egyptian, and American Dashaka, 6 American mortars, 3 recoilless guns, 400 American handgrenades, 2 rocket launchers, 20 automatic rifles, 400 303 rifles, 140 American antitank handgrenades, 260 English and Italian antitank mines, 180 American and Italian antipersonnel mines, spare mines and Dashaka ammunition, 500 assorted mines, 6 gas masks, 2,000 mortars, over 500,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, large quantities of explosives and propaganda leaflets have been seized from dozens of depots of the enemies of the homeland and revolution. Also, six depots of weapons and equipment belonging to these criminals have been blown up.

We now draw your attention to our reporters' interviews with an officer and a soldier:

[Begin recording--reporter] [Words indistinct] would you please inform (? the listeners) about when you started this operation, (? how long) the operation lasted, and what quantities of weapons and equipment have been seized?

[Unidentified officer] The operation which started 1 week ago included units and companies of the Army, sarandoy, party activists, youths and revolution guards in Khord Kabul, Chakari and its suburbs and adjacent areas, [words indistinct] mopping up these areas from the counterrevolution.

According to reconnaissance reports of the DRA Ministry of National Defense, a number of traitors-rebels were disrupting the quiet lives of these people and were gathering and storing weapons and equipment supplied to them by [words indistinct], imperialist countries and regional and international reaction.

According to these reports, the mopping up and clearing operations of these areas started 1 week ago, and as you can see these operations are continuing successfully.

During these operations large quantities of weapons and equipment, which were supplied to counterrevolution, were seized. These assorted weapons and equipment are in front of the television cameras, and you and the dear viewers can familiarize yourselves with types and kinds.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Officer] In this exhibition which is in front of you, you can see the weapons and equipment seized from the enemy. [Words indistinct] a large quantity of weapons and equipment have been captured from the enemy. I should add that during these operations we seized modern weapons and equipment, which were not seen before with the counterrevolution. [Words indistinct] I cannot give figures on the total of (? weapons captured) because our operations are still continuing. Also a large quantity of [words indistinct] equipment and (? antiaircraft weapons and equipment) have been seen for the first time with the counterrevolution. These are extremely dangerous and modern weapons.

Also, antitank mines and antipersonnel mines made in Italy have been seen for the first time in these operations, and you can see them close up.

According to the reports of the units and companies, troops, NCO's, heroic sarandoy comrades, party activists, and youths of the revolution guards have heroically fought in these operations. [Words indistinct] having assorted weapons and equipment and there was frenzied resistance by the rebels. The DYOA comrades made it possible for our comrades, despite assorted weapons available to the rebels and despite their frenzied resistance in this area, which they did not want to give up, to heroically pound these positions, capture a number of rebels, and seize their weapons and equipment. The seizure of their last depots in Khord Kabul and Chakari area is still continuing.

[Reporter] Thank you for your talk. I want to talk to a soldier who took part in the operations in this area. Would you please introduce yourself?

[Soldier] My name is Abdorrahman, my surname is [word indistinct], I am a soldier in Unit 230 of the reconnaissance [words indistinct] commando headquarters.

[Reporter] What were you doing before military service?

[Soldier] I am a graduate of the Economics Faculty. I was astudent.

[Reporter] Did you also take part in the operations?

[Soldier] Yes, comrade. Together with other comrades I took part in this operation.

[Reporter] Would you please give us your own account of these operations?

[Soldier] My account is that (? 1 week) ago we moved from our unit in Kabul and spent the night in Chaman [sport field in Kabul city near the Bala Hesar fortress] [words indistinct] we moved in our vehicles to Chakari region. There we saw various types of mines. We defused 48 mines and blew up 12 or 13 of them. In 2 days we successfully and without casualties reached our second headquarters, that is, our general headquarters. When we reached there, together with our comrades who had previously been sent to mountains [words indistinct]. There, these counterrevolutionaries fled after a few minutes' encounter. Then we went to Chakari hill and captured five Dashakas, one [word indistinct] a number of antitank and antipersonnel mines and mortar shells. We found these weapons in flour mills, caves,and buildings.

[Reporter] Thank you for talking to us. [end recording]

Karachi Reports on Recent Mujahidin Activities

BK201036 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, fighting between the Afghan mujahidin and the Karmal regime troops has been reported from a number of places in Qandahar, Helmand, Jalalabad, and Zabol Provinces. Reports say a Soviet helicopter was hit by the Afghan mujahidin at Zabol airport, which exploded, killing three Soviet officers. The mujahidin also attacked a military post in Qandahar city, killing several Karmal regime soldiers on the 9th of this month. They also attacked a military convoy near (Kurshekh) in Helmand Province.

Attacks on Airport, Towns

BK211035 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the freedom fighters attacked the Bagram military airport on the night of 8 of this month inflicting casualties on the Soviet-Karmal troops and damaging the installations by mortar fire. They also continued their operations in the military area of a modern locality, Khair Khana, on the northwest of Kabul on the 11th of this month. Nearly 46 Soviet-Karmal troops were killed or wounded. During an encounter at Samangan, the mujahidin killed several Soviet-Karmal troops and damaged three tanks.

Paper Reports Pakistani Violations of Airspace

BK220552 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 22 (AFP) — A Pakistani jet fighter and two helicopters have intruded into Indian air space in three separate incidents in Kashmir during the past four days, it was reported here today. Quoting official reports reaching Kashmir's state capital, Srinagar, *The Hindustan Times* newspaper said that the aircraft entered Indian air space while engaged in air and ground exercises. Defence Ministry officials here said that they were investigating the report, but refused either to confirm or deny it. The intrusions took place in the Tithwal, Kargil and Poonch sectors of the state.

The Indian army commander in the area had lodged a strong protest with his Pakistani counterpart, the newspaper reported.

Last week-end, at least five Pakistani border guards were wounded in an exchange of fire with Indian border security forces in the Poonch sector, according to earlier reports.

Gandhi Envoy To Be in Colombo 25 Aug for Talks

BK201611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] The prime minister's special envoy to Sri Lanka, Mr G. Parthasarathi, will be in Colombo on Thursday for talks with President Jayewardene and others on starting a dialogue with the leaders of the Tamil community. His engagements in Colombo are being finalized.

It may be recalled that the prime minister announced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday last that she is sending Mr Parthasarathi as her emissary to Sri Lanka to facilitate the process of negotiations.

Reportage on Police Firings, Injuries

Protesters in Jammu, Kashmir

OW201802 Hong Kong AFP in English 1738 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 20 (AFP) — At least one person was killed and over 25 others were injured when police fired on a rioting crowd at a village in Badgom District, 26 kms (16 miles) from the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, this evening.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reports said among the injured was the assistant commissioner of Badgam District whose condition was reported to be serious and 11 other police.

The trouble started when a group of people held demonstrations against the scarcity of foodgrains in the area, and assembled in front of the local ration depot raising slogans against the authorities.

The report said they were later joined by villagers from the neighboring areas, who turned violent and started pelting stones on the passing vehicles and police on duty.

Police resorted to firing when tear gas and baton charge failed to control the crowd, PTI added.

Bhagalpur Encounter

BK210521 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 21 (AFP) — Police said they shot dead at least 15 bandits and injured about a dozen during a four-hour long encounter in the eastern city of Bhagalpur, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency said.

The shootings occurred when a police patrol challenged the group which was attempting to cross the River Ganges near the ancient city yesterday, UNI said.

Police said they arrested eight.

Clash in Karnataka

BK220904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] In Karanataka, one person received a bullet injury when police fired to disperse two clashing groups at Raichur yesterday. A PTI report says the injured has been admitted to hospital and he is out of danger. Our Bangalore correspondent says the clash between two groups was a sequel to the student disturbances on Saturday. A number of persons, including 13 policemen, were injured because of stone throwing by students.

'Militant' Sikh Charged; Protests To Continue

BK210652 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 21 (AFP) — Indian police have charged a top Sikh militant leader with preaching violence which could land him in jail for at least three years. The police in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, the headquarters of the Sikh political party Akali Dal, have registered a case against Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who heads the militant faction of the party demanding greater political autonomy for their state Punjab.

This is the fifth case filed against a militant Sikh leader. But the police have so far failed to arrest him as he never comes out of the Golden Temple premises in Amritsar where the entry of police is traditionally banned.

Local news agencies said that Mr. Bhindranwale, who is constantly guarded by his armed followers, had threatened to kill 5,000 members of a community opposed to the Sikhs unless his uncle and brother detained by police in connection with the killing of a police official were released immediately. Mr. Bhindranwale had called upon his followers to arm themselves and counter the forces which he said were opposed to the Sikh case.

The Indian press did not name the community as media regulations here prohibit naming communities by religion.

Meanwhile, chief of the Akali Dal, Harchand Singh Longowal said today that the Sikh protests would continue until their demands were met.

AFP: Campaign in Assam Against Immigrants Reopens

BK220728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 22 Aug 83

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug. 22 (AFP) — Nationalists in Assam today re-opened their campaign to force the expulsion of 5 million immigrants who came to the Indian state from neighboring Bangladesh, Nepal and West Bengal, a campaign which has already caused several thousand deaths. Located in the high Brahmaputra Valley in northern India, Assam has 15 million inhabitants, the majority of whom are of Tibeto-Burmese origin.

The Al- Assam Students Union (AASU), and the Assamese Forum (AAGSP) have announced in a statement published in the state capital of Gauhati that, beginning today, they would halt any travelling of local or administrative officials in the state by blocking all the roads and paths they might use.

The chief minister of Assam, Hiteshwar Saikia, said in an address on local radio that he would not tolerate the nationalists' proposed actions, and that "stringent measures" would be taken if anyone tried to "disturb peace and tranquility in the state." He said that the state government had taken steps "to ensure regular and uninterrupted power supply and free circulation."

At the same time, six Assamese nationalist parties have decided to form a regional grouping, the Assamese Nationalist Party (ANP), modeled on the Telegu Desam created in Andhra Pradesh State by former movie celebrity Nandamuri Taraka Rao. The Telugu Desam won an absolute majority in local elections in February, in a crushing defeat for Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party. The emergence of regional parties is a recent development in Indian politics. It is especially apparent in the Dravidian southern regions, as well as in the north, where the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, has established contacts with Telegu Desam and, reportedly, with the ANP.

Observers in Gauhati stressed that the Assamese students, while re-opening their anti-immigrant campaign, supported the idea of a large regional nationalist party. A spokesman for the students told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the AASU "is in agreement with the move (for a political party) because if the nationalists don't capture the power in the state, the problem of foreign immigrants could not be solved to the satisfaction of the Assamese people."

Several local officials elected from the Congress Party could join the new formation as well, sources in Gauhati said.

In February's elections, only 5 to 15 percent of eligible voters in the different regions cast their ballots.

Charan Singh Said 'Confident' About Elections

BK210129 Hong Kong AFP in English 0109 GMT 21 Aug 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug. 21 (AFP) — The chairman of India's newly-formed opposition alliance says he is confident he will win general elections to be held next year, when more than a decade of rule under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi over the world's largest democracy will end.

"Mrs. Gandhi is deeply upset... so she is calling the alliance a joke," Charan Singh, 82-year-old former prime minister and chairman of the National Democratic Alliance, said in an interview.

The alliance was formed last week between Mr. Singh's Lok Dal or Party of the Masses and the right-wing Hindu-dominated Bhartiya Janata Party or Indian People's Party. Between them, with 41 seats, they are the largest opposition group in the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

Formation of the alliance is seen here as the opposition's first definite step to unitedly face Mrs. Gandhi in the forthcoming elections in the Parliament and state assemblies.

A spokesman of the alliance said that more parties would be joining them soon and the alliance would eventually take the shape of what he called "a viable alternative to Mrs. Gandhi's party."

However, Congress (I) Party sources say that the opposition would never be able to come on the same platform and remain united. "They did unite themselves in 1977, but soon parted," one source said.

MRD To Widen Campaign, Demand Zia Resignation

BK201438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Aug. 20 (AFP) — Pakistan's outlawed opposition parties here today decided to widen their campaign of civil disobedience to the Punjab and demand the "immediate resignation" of General Ziaul-Haq and his military government. The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy's Central Council for the Punjab today said officials and activists of the eight-party opposition coalition would provoke their arrests in twos and threes every day throughout the province.

More than 1,000 people have already been arrested and 20 killed in violent clashes mainly in the southern province of Sind since the MRD launched the campaign last Sunday.

The MRD also called for all members of the Consultative Assembly who are appointed by General Zia to resign along with civil servants in charge of Islamic taxes. MRD spokesman Pervaiz Salaih, president of the extreme-left National Liberation Front, said the opposition would call for a boycott of next month's local elections. Political parties, banned since 1979, are not allowed to take part. "If the government goes ahead with the poll, we will prevent it," he said.

Sources close to the opposition here said the disobedience campaign would take off in the Punjab from September 1. The campaign has already proved the strongest show of opposition since General Zia declared martial law in 1977. Mr Salaih called on opposition supporters not to be intimidated by massive arrests, prison sentences and whippings.

But in tense Sind Province the violence continued today, if on a markedly reduced scale and army patrols were reported to be reinforcing the police in several districts.

The press reported orders to Sind military forces to arrest all party leaders and militants, whether they had taken part in the campaign or not.

Labour Minister Ghulam Dastgir Khan called the campaign "a conspiracy against the country." Democracy would be re-established in spring 1985, he said.

Cabinet Meets on Law, Order Situation 21 August

BK211541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Excerpts] A Cabinet meeting presided over by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today decided in principle to make the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN a statutory corporation.

The Cabinet was briefed on the internal and foreign situation. The Cabinet regarded the law and order situation in the country as satisfactory. The Cabinet noted there have been a few isolated cases of law and order disturbance.Strong action will be taken against people involved in such incidents. The Cabinet regarded the maintenance of law and order as basically the task of provincial governments; the law will be enforced fully.

Demonstrations, Riots, Clashes Reported 21 August

OW211855 Hong Kong AFP in English 1836 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 21 (AFP) — Demonstrations, riots and police clashes continued in a dozen Sind Province cities today, but the opposition campaign of civil disobedience against Pakistani martial law, entering its second week, appeared not to be spreading to the rest of the country from the southern province.

In Hyderabad, police charged some 20,000 demonstrators after they had paraded through the city chanting slogans against the six-year-old martial law government of General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Similar confrontations occurred in Bodin, Larkana, Shikarpur — where a courthouse and fire trucks were burned — and in Mathelo, where a locomotive was machine-gunned.

The campaign, organized by the eight-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), reportedly spread to several colleges and universities, where the Pakistani People's Party (PPP) of the late former prime minister Ali Bhutto remains influential.

At Tando Bago Prison in southeastern Sind, 10 MRD members arrested last week began a hunger strike to protest whipping as punishment.

General Ziaul today held a nine-hour cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi after which the government said it was "satisfied" with the maintenance of order in the country, despite what it termed certain "subversive actions in Sind."

A government spokesman said 715 persons had been arrested — 335 of them in Sind — since the start of the campaign last Sunday.

The opposition placed the figure at more than 3,000.

The spokesman said the government had no intention of opening a dialogue with the opposition.

MRD militants in the four provincial capitals of Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta meanwhile continued to volunteer themselves for arrest in groups of two to four, accompanied by crowds generally smaller in number than in previous days.

A PPP official said the civil disorder campaign "was not taking" in Punjab Province, the country's most populous, whose capital of Lahore has traditionally been a political barometer for Pakistan.

He said that if the MRD did not soon succeed in stepping up its voluntary arrest campaign as promised, then the opposition will have succeeded only in aggravating separatist feelings in Sind and in endangering an already fragile national unity.

Delhi Sets Arrested at Over 700, Deaths at 14

BK220329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] In Pakistan, over 700 people have been arrested in the week-long agitation launched by the opposition parties against the military rule. The official death toll in the violent incidents has gone up to 14. Military courts are passing strict sentences and the convicts get 1 year hard labor and fines and also a flogging.

The situation was discussed at the Cabinet meeting in Islamabad yesterday. Lieutenant General Mujibur Rahman said after the Cabinet meeting that severe action will be taken against the demonstrators.

Meanwhile, the Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, is reported to have asked his followers to join the Movement for Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan. The 92-year-old leader is said to have been shifted by the authorities from his residence near Peshawar to Abbottabad, 120 km from Islamabad, 3 days ago.

Press Notes Issued 19, 20, 21 August

Attempt To Derail Train

BK191739 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate, Sukkur, today says that last night some miscreants removed the fishplates of the railway track of the up line between (Lohsen) and (Ghotki) railway stations. As a result, [words indistinct] of the pilot railway engine operating on the line got derailed. But the engine driver was able to stop the engine well in time to prevent any damage. The railway line has since been repaired and the traffic restored. Further investigations are in hand.

Crowd Dispersed in Dadu

BK201610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Dadu district magistrate said that a procession was taken out in the (Khairpur Nagan Shah) area today. Those taking part in the procession, first of all, severely damaged a government jeep, a branch of a bank, and a local police station. They then proceeded to a jail where they set jail records and furniture on fire and then tried to destroy the jail. The police had to resort to firing after failing to disperse the crowd through all other means. Two people sustained injuries and have been rushed to the hospital.

The press note also noted a small procession in Mehar town, but the police dispersed the crowd with tear gas and a cane charge. The press note also said that the situation in Dadu and in other parts of the district is fully under control and the people are busy carrying out their routine activities.

A summary military court in Dadu prosecuted nine people under martial law regulations and handed down a sentence of 1 year's rigorous imprisonment with 10 lashes each on charges of taking out unlawful processions and damaging session courts and other government buildings.

Violence in Karachi, Shikarpur

BK210753 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi magistrate says that a large section of a crowd indulged in heavy pelting of stones at police at (?Badabot) yesterday, resulting in injuries to many policemen including the deputy suprintendent of police.

Another group of mischievous elements threw many stones at traffic and erected obstacles at the Old Golimar Road. Police resorted to tear gas to disperse the crowd. Seventeen people have been arrested. One member of the group indulging in stone throwing was hit on the head by a tear gas cannister and immediately rushed to a hospital. The press note adds that the situation was immediately brought under control and traffic restored to normal.

A press note issued by the Shikarpur district magistrate says that an incited crowd assembled at (Lasigarh) last evening and began throwing stones at [word indistinct]. The police used tear gas to disperse the crowd. However, some mischievous elements from the crowd set a branch of the bank on fire, resulting in slight damage. Another group attacked the city magistrate's court and set it on fire, causing heavy damages. The mischievous elements also attacked municipal highway [word indistinct] station and set three fire engines and a tractor on fire, heavily damaging them. Afterward, the crowd went toward the court premises, where they tried to free detainees. Emplosives were used by the crowd. However, the timely action by jail (?wardens) foiled their attempts. So far, about 50 mischievous elements have been arrested. The press note adds that the situation is now under control.

Area Military Courts Pass Sentences

Rawalpindi, Jacobabad

BK191536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] A summary military court in Rawalpindi today handed down sentences to nine peoples on charges of raising slogans and creating unrest among the people. In Jacobabad also, a summary military court yesterday sentenced five people under martial law regulation No 33. These people were accused of participating in unlawful political activities.

Mirpur Khas, Thatta

BK200912 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] A summary military court in Mirpur Khas has sentenced three people under martial law regulations on charges of making objectionable speeches and trying to disrupt law and order situation. The Thatta summary military court has also sentenced two people on charges of organizing a procession.

Lahore, Rawalpindi

BK220259 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] A summary military court in Lahore tried 12 people on charges of propagating hatred against the administration, creating unrest among the people, and participating in processions of a political nature. Nine of the accused have been given 1 year's rigorous imprisonment with fines ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 rupees, while three accused were acquitted.

A summary military court in Rawalpindi also sentenced three people to 1 year's rigorous imprisonment each. They were arrested on charges of raising objectionable slogans with intent to create unrest among the people.

PPP Official Comments on Ziaul Haq's Speech

GF211354 Karachi Nawa-e Waqt in Urdu 14 Aug 83 p 1

[Correspondent's report]

[Excerpt] Karachi, 13 August — Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, chairman of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] steering committee and former federal minister, has said that the new political framework is a mere farce and it is clear from President Ziaul Haq's election schedule of 18 months that he wants to remain at the helm of affairs. He was speaking to the *Nawa-e Waqt* correspondent here at his residence.

He added: The way to end the political crisis in the country is not to present frameworks, but to hold elections and then to resolve all issues in an elected national assembly. Regarding the MRD's campaign begun on 14 August, he said: This should have been started 6 months ago. He said: I advised the MRD leaders to spread out in the Sind area and to go to the people in the rural areas, but no such program has been formulated so far.

Mumtaz Bhutto said he feels his responsibility under the circumstances and he is going to tour the interior of Sind in the future and contact the workers of every district directly. He also said if he has to be arrested because of the MRD, then he is ready.

Councillors Term Agitation 'Unpatriotic, Ill-Conceived'

BK210909 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Leaders of public opinion have described the agitational politics and violence resorted to by some persons as unpatriotic and ill-conceived. After the announcement of the constitutional framework and phased program of elections, they observed, the motive behind this could be nothing but putting impediments in the process of Islamization. They expressed the opinion that in view of the dangers hovering around the country, the national could ill afford agitational politics of any sort.

A federal councillor, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, who was chairman of the special committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora on the form and system of government, has said the agitational politics is against the broader national interest and is likely to harm the country. In a statement, he said this would create hindrances in the implementation of the political framework announced by the president, thereby eliminating the chances of restoration of democracy in the country. He appealed to those indulging in agitational politics not to play with the future of the country and create a conducive atmosphere for the successful implementation of the political framework to ensure restoration of democracy and peaceful transfer of power.

The mayor of the Lahore Municipal Corporation, Mian Shujaur Rahman, in a statement, has said the political framework announced by the president on the 12th of this month had been widely welcomed by the people because it envisaged political stability and Islamic democratic order in the country. In spite of the announcement of the framework and the election program, he said some disgruntled elements have started an agitational movement just to meet their ulterior motive. The mayor of Lahore appealed to the people to remain united and frustrate the designs of these elements.

A member of the Federal Council, Chowdhury Shujaat Hussain, has said the period of 18 months for holding elections in the country is reasonable in the present circumstances. Any [word indistinct] in the transfer of power and holding elections of legislature would be detrimental to the country. He said some people are aiming at disrupting the efforts of the government toward an Islamic order in the country.

Another member of the Federal Council, Khan Iqbal Ahmad Khan, urged creating harmony to strengthen the integrity and solidarity of the country. He said the announcement regarding the election schedule and the future political structure reflected the aspirations of an overwhelming majority of people.

Another member of the Federal Council, Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, said there are no two opinions about the fact that the agitational politics of a handful of the rejected political elements is harmful to the nation and will take the country away from democracy. He appealed to the people not to pay attention to the activities being carried out by some people in the country to hinder the process of Islamization and restoration of democracy undertaken by the government.

Mr Zain Nurani, a member of the Federal Council, said in a statement said there is no justification whatsoever of agitational politics after the announcement of the political framework and the election schedule. What the country needs is to get back to the democratic form of the government. He said democracy could only be restored by peaceful means and negotiations and in the spirit of give and take.

Another member of the Federal Council, Mr Obaidur Rahman, said agitational politics is an attempt to subvert the efforts of the government to introduce the Islamic system in the country and jeopardize the economic development and progress made during the last 6 years. In a statement, he said he hoped that the people would help maintain law and order to achieve the cherished goal of democracy.

The northern areas councillors, Agha Ahmed Ali Shah and Ghulam Ali Hyderi; the vice chairman of the Baltistan District Council, (Raja Khalid Hussein; and the vice chairman of the Municipal Committee of Skardu, Maulavi Abdul Rauf, have commended the announcement regarding the political structure and the election scheduled announced on the 12th of this month.

SRI LANKA

Longer Curfew Hours Called 'No Reason to Panic'

BK191129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The government informed that there is no reason to panic about the fact that the curfew is being imposed at 2100 today in Colombo and seven other districts. The curfew has been extended by 2 hours in these areas for two reasons. The provision of additional security for the Randoli Perehera [cultural event] in Kandy being one and the move to give relief to the armed services being the other. The authorities remind the people not to believe in rumors.

The curfew, which will commence at 2100 today in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Degalla, and Ratnapura, will be lifted at 0400 tomorrow. However, in the police divisions of Dehiwala, Kohuwala, and (Peliangala) in the Colombo District, the curfew will be imposed only from 2300. In the Kandy District, the curfew hours will operate unchanged from midnight to 0400 the following day.

Special Communique Cites 'Antigovernment Elements'

BK201406 Colombo Domestic Srevice in English 1245 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] A special communique from the president's office says the government wishes to make it known that there are antigovernment elements who have been and are at present trying to damage the country and its economy. The same elements are spreading false rumors with the idea of causing fear and panic to the minority communities and religious groups. The government urges all citizens not to be incited by false rumors and to remain calm.

Jayewardene Decides To Cancel Visit to UK in October

BK201618 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] President Jayewardene has decided that in view of the current developments in Sri Lanka he would be unable to make a state visit to Britain in October. A statement issued by the president today said that it is with the deepest regret and disappointment that he has felt (?necessary) to take this decision. The President and Mrs Jayewardene have been much looking forward to their visit as guests of the queen and to the opportunity it presented of reaffirming their warm and friendly relations, which have so long existed between Sri Lanka and Britain. The queen has been informed and has asked that a message be conveyed to the president that she regrets the decision but fully understands the reasons.

AFP Interviews Ceylon Workers Congress Leader

BK181602 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Colombo, Aug. 18 (AFP) — The Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), the sole Tamil organisation in the government, could quit if it does not receive concrete assurances at a critical meeting tomorrow, the party's leader, Savumiamoorthy Thondaman, said in an interview here today. The comment by Mr. Thondaman, who is minister for rural industrial development, was the first sign of a split within the government since the bloody communal riots last month, observers said. The party, which represents Tamils of Indian origin working in the tea plantations, is to meet tomorrow with President Junius Jayewardene for what are seen as potentially important talks.

"In the backdrop of the recurring waves of violence the CWC has pointed out that these acts of savagery, discrimination and displacement have been practised in spite of the unstinted cooperation the CWC has extended to the government," the CWC leader said in a memorandum he has prepared for tomorrow's talks.

In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr Thondaman alleged the attacks against Tamils had begun before the ambush of soldiers in Jaffna on July 23 which was given as the reason for the disturbances which officially left 371 dead and about 100,000 homeless.

"In the early hours of the 23rd, 200 Tamils of Indian origin were uprooted from their homes in Trincomalee and brought against their will to Nuwara Eliya and Hatton and left as destitute," he said. The Jaffna ambush was later that day.

The subsequent violence "was organised by people wanting to change the president's policies," the minister said in an apparent reference ot Sinhala hawks in the government.

Today the elderly CWC leader was not optimistic about the future. "The people against us felt that their arguments were not changing the president enough so they decided to attack us to force the president's hand. It appears to have succeeded," he said.

Within a month the CWC will review its position following tomorrow's talks, he said. "If by resigning I can help my people I shall resign," he said, "and if all else fails we shall leave Sri Lanka where there would not be a future anymore for us. I will take my people to India."

Following his 1977 election victory, Mr. Jayewardene attempted to work out an understanding with the Tamil community, but only the CWC joined the government and Mr Thondaman became a minister in 1978. The CWC's decision to join the government broke the last link between the two Tamil communities — the plantation workers brought here by the British in the 19th century and the Ceylonese Tamils who arrived in the

fifth century B.C. at the same time as the Sinhalese. The CWC continued to support the government even after the 1981 race riots when Sinhalese youths, often assisted by the Armed Forces, went on the rampage in the plantation areas and burnt down the symbolic ancient library of Tamil culture in Jaffna. "We were convinced that President Jayewardene was sincere in his efforts to form a government of all Sri Lankans not just of one community," Mr. Thondaman said.

The plantation areas were less affected by last month's riots which were mainly directed at the Ceylonese Tamils in the cities, but the CWC saw the aggression as directed at the Tamil community as a whole, the memorandum said.

Soon after the riots, Mr Thondaman attempted to speak in parliament but was silenced, apparently by government officials. The CWC has accused the government of being "inactive" and even encouraging and assisting the rioting. "Organised groups went on the rampage unchecked for nearly a week destroying and looting property...while the guardians of law remained inactive and in some instances even encouraged and assisted in the lawlessness," the CWC memorandum alleged. The riots "were not a sudden and spontaneous outburst of the Sinhala population against the Tamils," it added. Mr. Thondaman also noted the president has not expressed any sympathy for the Tamil population, which, he said, was "indicative" of the pressure on him.

The political moves come as the government has announced its intention to extend for another month the state of emergency imposed on May 18 in a bid to curb violence following local and parliamentary elections.

Mr Thondaman said that the plantation workers faced discrimination in terms of wage increases, educational and other benefits. But the CWC has rejected the demand by Tamil militants for an independent state.

The CWC, the only other party to attend Mr Jayewardene's conference on Tamil terrorism last month, seeks immediate and long-term action to enable "people of Indian origin to continue to live in this country with dignity, safety and security."

Khomeyni Addresses Guards Corps Officials 21 August

LD211219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] A group of brothers from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' intelligence work concerned with investigating Marxist groups met this morning with Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and briefed him on the group's approach toward leftist groups, particularly the Tudeh Party. Imam Khomeyni, leader of the world's oppressed, later made a speech:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank you very much, gentlemen, for devoting your time and youth to the objectives of the Islamic Revolution. May God reward you well and may you be increasingly successful.

From the outset of its victory, the Islamic Republic granted absolute freedom to all sections. Not only did it not close down any newspaper, but every group or party was allowed to carry on with its work. Even some of the unidentified groups were taken onboard by the government. However, it gradually was discovered that they were either conspirators or were engaged in spying.

The revolution could not be abandoned. Neither Islam nor common sense would allow us to see a group in the guise of government officials or otherwise taking undue advantage of the situation to overthrow the Islamic Republic or to engage in acts of espionage, nor would they allow us to keep quiet about it. With all the sacrifices you and your friends have made on the domestic front, it would be treachery to give a free hand to those intending to conspire against Islam and the nation.

The very Tudeh Party which relies on the mighty power of the Soviet Union and which, as you know, is spying for a country whose regime is more than 60 years old and in which there is no party other than their own or any other freedom — from the moment it came to power it killed or purged large groups of people — even this party was free in Iran. Nevertheless, they were shouting that there was no freedom here.

Praise be to God, you watched the situation with the utmost care until you recognized them well and took the necessary action. Like the hypocrites organization and other sinners, these people should also be tried and should receive their just deserts.

I hope that the identity of those who are now contemplating conspiracy will be made known to the people. Thus, you and the whole nation, who have made so many sacrifices for independence and freedom against superpowers and plunderers, will not allow laxity in this Islamic environment to please East or West. Proper freedom that is not harmful to Islam and the country has been in existence right from the beginning and it still exists. No other revolution except Iran's has right from the outset of its victory opened the way for freedom of all parties and groups. Thus, your work is commendable.

I hope you will be more successful and acquire more information. May God help you to bring conspirators to justice. May God preserve you all. I thank you again. I hope you will be successful in your work and you will make God your witness and never act against Him. Peace and God's blessing.

Commentary Criticizes Moscow Radio Support for Iraq

LD211931 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1335 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] One of the consequences of the courageous battles in the Val-Fajr II and III operations was the superpowers' and the wounded and fugitive counterrevolutionaries' fear of the impact of the victories achieved. These operations delivered crushing blows to Saddam's Ba'thist regime and prompted Saddam's Eastern and Western backers to rush to the help of his decaying regime with their propaganda efforts and to exploit every avenue to conceal the impact of the victories.

The Eastern media did not remain impartial in this matter either and they tried to rush to Iraq's assistance in an effort to prevent it from suffering a political collapse ahead of its military defeat. In its commentaries, Moscow radio has claimed that the Val-Fajr II and III operations would not have any overall impact on the situation at the front. The radio, having initially forgotten the strategic importance of Hajj 'Umran base, tried to play down the heroic struggle and unprecedented battle by our combatants deep inside Iraqi territory and over heights several thousand meters high. In its remarks, that radio enumerated Iraq's peaceful measures and, in common with the Western media, tried to portray the Iraqi regime's demogogical efforts as good intention. This clearly indicates the efforts made by the East and the West to rescue Saddam.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,432

LD191741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,432 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While expressing congratulations for the auspicious birthday of the eighth imam, the guardian of right and righteousness, His Excellency 'Ali ibn Musa ar-Reza, peace be upon him, a summary of the military operations during the past 24 hours hereby is announced:

Yesterday, the operations of the combatants of Islam continued on the southern fronts with exchanges of mortar and artillery fire. Our forces brought enemy concentration areas and supply axes and fortifications under fire, inflicting losses and casualties. Exchange of fire was more intense west of Fakkeh. In the sector west of Kushk, an enemy patrol group, carrying asssorted weapons, intended to penetrate the defensive positions of the forces of Islam, but was forced to flee thanks to our forces' fire. Also, thanks to the alertness of our combatants, an enemy patrol

operation in the [name indistinct] sector was neutralised in time, and the patrol group was forced to flee.

On the western fronts yesterday, thanks to the intensity of fire of the forces of Islam, enemy vehicles' and infantry movements in the Piranshahr sector were halted and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed. In the Mehran sector, our combatants kept enemy movements under observation with reconnaissance, military, and patrol operations and, by crushing their defensive positions and lines, deprived them of the opportunity to stage any operation.

Yesterday, long-range enemy fire damaged two houses in Abadan. During the past 24 hours, enemy reconnaisance sorties and acts of aerial aggression against a number of western and southern border towns and operational sectors were repelled in time thanks to the fire of air defense units and tactical measures taken by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,433

LD201734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,433 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Sporadic exchanges of artillery and other heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on the Piranshahr operational sector. The triumphant warriors of Islam, while further consolidating their defensive positions and protection of the regions for which they are responsible, opened heavy artillery fire, halting enemy artillery and heavy weapons fire and inflicting considerable losses and casualties on Iraqi troops. They also destroyed a number of Iraqi foxholes and trenches and halted the operational activities of the Saddamist troops.

At various times in the afternoon of 17 August, during which Iraqi troops embarked upon several phases of an offensive operation, our forces crushed enemy operations and killed or wounded a number of enemy troops.

On the country's Western fronts, especially in the Bakhtaran border regions, constant exchange of fire continued between our forces and the enemy. As a result of Islam's combatants' retaliatory fire, about 15 Iraqi troops were killed and 35 were wounded.

In the mountainous regions of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sumar, enemy patrol forces were seen trying to advance toward our forces' defensive lines. Our ever vigilant combatants located the enemy patrols, opened fire on them, and forced them to retreat and to flee. According to reports received, enemy losses in the Sumar region were such that for hours enemy ambulances were engaged in transferring casualties to the rear.

On the Mehran operational fronts, Islam's mighty and victorious combatants maintained their superiority over the fire of the Saddamist blasphemous forces. They were valiantly in control of their defensive region and by opening fire on Iraqi troops halted enemy reconnaissance and consolidation activities.

On other southern fronts of the country, combatants of Islam consolidated their positions, dispatched reconnaissance and combat patrols, and executed defensive and offensive fire, continued their battle and halted an enemy patrol in Dehloran region.

During an exchange of fire on the Abadan fronts, valiant troops of the Gendarmerie and other combatants of Islam opened retaliatory fire across the Arvand Rud on Iraqi troops' positions and fortifications and halted Iraqi forces' fire. They destroyed three enemy heavy weapons positions and one bulldozer, killed or wounded a number of Saddamists, and succeeded in setting an enemy fuel tank on fire in Al-Faw.

The city of Abadan yesterday sustained some damage as a result of the criminal Saddamist forces' fire. Two houses in the city were destroyed and several others were gutted.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,434

LD211848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,434 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the combative units of Islam have kept all enemy movements under observation in the Mehran operational sector and, by dispatching patrol groups, they defended their areas. The forces of Islam halted enemy motorized and personnel movements in the Mehran sector with heavy weapons' fire and disrupted their [word indistinct] activities. On the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Baneh fronts, heavy exchanges of fire continued; our forces returned enemy fire, killing a number of Iraqi personnel and destroying several observation posts and slit trenches.

On one of the western fronts yesterday, four Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the forces of Islam and sought asylum.

On the southern fronts yesterday, our forces fired on enemy concentration points, destroying enemy fortifications and positions; they also halted enemy engineering movements in the (Pikangeveh) area south of Kushk.

During the past 24 hours, fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the air defense units repelled acts of aerial aggression by Iraqi planes near the border.

(Signed) Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Emani-Kashani Gives Friday Prayers Sermon 19 August

LD191321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpts] In step with the other God-seeking compatriots, the hezbollahi people of Tehran, who are always present on the scene, with their monolithic presence in the concentrated ranks of the enemy-crushing ceremonies of Friday prayers at Tehran University, today held this holy ritual under the imamate of Hojjat ol-eslam val-Moslemin Emani-Kashani.

In the second sermon, the ad interim Friday imam of Tehran said: Today the people of the world are divided into several groups: the combatants of the Islamic Republic, who are vigilant and ready to give their lives and who with devotion are struggling against world arrogance and imperialism and on whose sides the Islamic nation and the world's oppressed are waiting for the victory of the Islamic Revolution, while opposed to them there are the arrogance and those who have pinned their hopes on it.

Referring to the recent victories achieved by the combatants of Islam over the Zionist Saddamists, he then said: These victories achieved by the combatants of Islam and the defeat suffered by the Zionist mercenaries show the help and assistance given by the Almighty.

In this connection, referring to the recent crimes committed by Saddam, the ad interim Friday imam of Tehran said:

[Begin recording] Confronted with these victories, they commit any crime: pound Dezful and Gilan-e Gharb in the way they did and pound Andemeshk and martyr so many people in Andimeshk and Gilan-e Gharb. When newsmen visited Andimeshk,they saw 9 infants of 4 months to 4 1/2 years of age among the many martyrs; they also saw pregnant women, elderly men, ailing people, and so on. Suffering their disgraceful defeats and the shame following them, these criminals commit such crimes. Of course, we have no fear of the crime and the criminal; but the problem is: Why have these international circles and these vast organizations of human rights, the United Nations and so kept silent? It is because they have been formed with the aim of suppressing the cries of the oppressed. They have been created to impose the power of world arrogance on the oppressed. That is why they have kept silent.

America is now saying: I will come to the region with five divisions. Five divisions? Five divisions are only a bite for our boys and for the valuable forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Aren't you ashamed? (cries of approval, chants of slogans against the United States and the Soviet Union] I think America's declaration that it would send five divisions is a slip of the tonque or it is very stupid because (?one doesn't reduce himself to such a level to say things like this) and then [word indistinct] to stop the Soviet Union's penetration and so on. You are disgraced and discredited in the world. Stop these (?disgraceful actions). [end recording]

President Khamene'i Arrives in Bushehr 19 August

LD191332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived in Bushehr this morning to meet with Bushehri hezbollahi and to inspect the naval and airbase.Our correspondent reports:

The president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council arrived here this morning to inspect the Bushehr naval and air base and to meet with the ever-vigilant people of the province. He was welcomed by the Friday imam, governors-general of Bushehr, Fars, (Koh Kiluyeh) and (Boyer Ahmad), a number of clerics, military commanders, and local officials. The president is accompanied on this trip by Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff; Colonel Mo'inpur, Air Force commander; and Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni, commander of the Navy; and Nabavi, Majlis deputy for Bushehr, several members of the presidential foundation, and military commanders. After military ceremonies at the airport, the president and his entourage left for the command headquarters of the 2d naval district of Bushehr-Kharg.

President Khamene'i said: Today the Islamic Republic of Iran's army is experiencing the best period of its life; for the first time in history, the army feels that it does not have to obey anyone but faith, the nation, the country's policy, the government,and the beloved, great, and eminent leader and that its power belongs to the nation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the army's move toward holy thoughts, ideas, and goals and expressed his appreciation for the valuable cooperation among the Armed Forces: Today the army belongs to no one individual--rather it belongs to thoughts and ideas, it is in the service of sacred thoughts and goals. He added: The Air force and the Navy enjoy valuable and complex cooperation in this region. This cooperation is imperative; it must exist and continue.

Continuing their trip, Khamene'i and his entourage left for Bushehr air and naval base and inspected the base's helicopter squadron.

Khamene'i Speaks at Friday Prayers

LD191807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and head of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived in Bushehr this morning to meet with the hezbollahi of Bushehr and to inspect Air Force and Navy bases. He took part in the glorious Friday prayer service held by the people of Bushehr at noon and delivered a speech. Our correspondent at the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bushehr center, reports:

[Begin recording] Referring to the objectives of the Bright Star maneuvers by the archsatan America, Khamene'i said: The chief objective of this maneuver is to (? threaten) the Islamic Republic of Iran. I would like to say to you, brothers and sisters, that the officials in charge of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying the support of the courageous and honorable nation, intend to oppose all aggressions by the oppressors of the world.

Elaborating on the conspiracies of the world oppression against the Islamic Revolution during the imposed war, the president said: For a long time, rumors have been circulated that if the war continues, foreign forces might interfere in the Persian Gulf or in the issue of war. [as heard] At that time, we warned all those powers who promised their friends in the region that they would interfere that no one and no foreign power is strong enough to embark on military interference in the region. The head of the Supreme Defense Council added: The superpowers have not maintained their neutrality and have lied about it. The United States was the greatest factor and the instigator of this war, and the governments in the Middle East and North Africa which support the United States forced the Iraqi regime and the mindless people ruling over that country to attack Iran. Khamene'i added: By inciting the Ba'thist aggressors, the regimes in the East seem to have helped Iraq as well. Some of our unfair neighbors in the Persian Gulf have given all the assistance they can to the enemy. Of course, as long as there is no military aggression against us we will not retaliate. But any kind of military move against us will be severely crushed.

President Discusses Gulf Situation

LD201313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Interview with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent; time, place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr President, could you tell us about the aims of your visit to Bushehr?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It was a military inspection and a friendly visit. As you are aware we have two important air and naval bases in Bushehr. I had not inspected the bases before and considered it necessary to see closely the situation at these two bases. Fortunately, our brothers at these two bases have made numerous efforts; our airbase in Bushehr is one of the most efficient and active Air Force bases. The naval base, which is in the headquarters of the 2d naval region, is very good.

In addition to this, our aim was also to visit the people. The people of Bushehr have a long record of struggle. We know that in the past, the name of Bushehr has always come together with the mention of struggle against the British. In the imposed war, they have also rendered numerous services and have toiled a great deal; they have also sent their youths to the fronts. According to the honorable Bushehr deputy, there have been some combatants from Bushehr in all the operations onthe fronts. Although they are a deprived people, they have even financially assisted the fronts. I considered it necessary to go and see closely these beloved ones, to talk to them and to learn first hand their problems, and to be their guest — to be among them during my few hours' stay.

[Correspondent] As the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, could you tell us what the military situation in the Persian Gulf is like?

[Khamene'i] As far as we are concerned, the military situation in the Persian Gulf is very good. In other words, we are satisfied with our military situation in the Persian Gulf. We have the necessary domination all over this long border, the country's waters, and the neighboring waters — so we have no worry. Of course, for some time there have been some implicit threats made by foreign powers from outside this region, and by their sympathizers and supporters in this region. They apparently want to frighten and intimidate our revolutionary nation by the intervention of big powers in the Persian Gulf and the coastal waters of the Islamic Republic. We have no fear in this connection. We have enough and full domination over all the maritime zones of our homeland. If these maneuvers that are to be carried out are aimed at threatening progressive governments, headed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have no fear of these threats and are not worried; we are in control of our job and nerves and are aware that we can crush any intervention in the region and respond to it with full power.

Of course, we have no dispute with the governments of the southern coasts of the Gulf and we will not have any military conflict with them. We have always said that we consider them and take them into account as neighbors with whom we can live. Of course, any aggression, be it military or political, any malignancy, like the one committed by Iraq against us, will be decisively and powerfully responded to by us. Despite all the power, thank God, enjoyed by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today, we are not interested in any engagements or conflicts with our neighbors, unless somebody asks for it. Of course, we consider the one who asks for that as an aggressor. According to the noble tradition of Al-Badi, the person who starts a conflict is more aggressive. We are ready to confront; we do not wamt to start anything.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Bushehr Visit Concluded

GF211910 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Interview with President Khamene'i at the end of his 1-day visit to Bushehr by Bushehr radio correspondent on 20 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Correspondent] MrKhamene'i, please tell us about the result of your visit to Bushehr and its military centers.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Today's visit was one of the best, sweetest,and most successful visits that I have had in a long time. First, I should talk about the goals of this visit. One of the goals was to visit the

people and the other was to visit military centers.Today's Friday prayers was one of the most natural gatherings that the citizens of a city could have had. I tried not to make extra trouble for the people of the city by calling for a separate second gathering. We used the same Friday prayers gathering and it was a very exciting, big and interesting. I found the citizens to be hezbollahi. I believe these people are valuable bordergaurds who are like strong fences between the country and the enemies of the country. They always protect the borders, the revolution, the nation and the country, and will continue to protect them.

There are many difficulties in this area. I have advised the governor-general and the officials and am sure that the brother government officials, whether in here or in Tehran, will try to solve these problems. Of course, it is obvious that the fundamental actions cannot be taken with too much speed. These fundamental problems will be solved in the long term. The people should help us in any way they can. They should give all kinds of help that government wants from them. The most important ways to help are friendship, kindnesses, objectivity, feelings, and their presence on the scene.

The second objective of my trip was to visit the military units. This area is the 2d naval district and also houses the 6th Air Force unit. These are both very important and have been effective and useful.

In addition, this visit gave me hope and excitement. I once again pay my respects to you dear brothers and sisters, you military brothers, you guard brothers, and promise you that with the help of God, all the hours of my day and the good times of my life will be given over to your needs and work.

I noticed that the relationship between the naval forces and the Air Force was an exciting one. The relationship between the army and the guards, especially the naval sections of the guards, is a good one. I asked questions of both groups, guards brothers and army brothers. I received satisfactory answers. In general, I noticed that the relationship between the guards and the army was very useful. [end recording]

President Addresses Pilgrims in Mashhad 20 August

Comments on Cabinet Reshuffle

LD202016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Our correspondent now reports on the president's visit to the holy town of Mashhad:

On the birthday anniversary of the eighth imam, 'Ali ibn Musa ar-Reza, peace be upon him, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this evening delivered a speech at a gathering of thousands of pilgrims to the shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, to the hezbollahi, the people of Mashhad and a group of state and provincial officials.

In part of his speech, while elaborating on the false rumors spread by the enemy about the war and how the Islamic Republic of Iran acquires its weapons, Khamene'i said: We should try our best to sever our connections with the aggressive forces. While praising the martyrs of the victorious Val-Fajr II and III operations and praying for their souls, he addressed those who work in the production and repair of equipment. Praising their efforts he said: You should not allow war equipment and other kinds of equipment to wear out. Today, maintaining this equipment is considered to be a crusade in itself.

In another part of his speech, while admiring the generous contributions of the hezbollahi of Iran from the beginning of the war, the president referred to the forthcoming Cabinet reshuffle and the rumors spread by the enemies of Islam about this reshuffle. He said: Brother Musavi's Cabinet ranks among the cabinets of the world and of Iran with the least number of reshuffles. If a few ministers are changed,it does not mean that they will not be approved. A few more ministers might be replaced too and I approve all those who remain and the new ministers, too. I deny the rumors spread by the counterrevolution.

The ceremony ended with prayers for the imam of the nation and for the final victory of the powerful combatants of Islam.

President Emphasizes Need for Cooperation in Khorasan

LD212216 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Mashhad, Aug 21, IRNA — President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in a meeting with provincial administrators of Khorasan Province commented on the need for coordination between the imam's representative and officials of the province in carrying out the plans and programmes of the provinces. He said that the officials should make the utmost use of the authority vested in them to carry out the desired plans and find solutions to problems of the people.

Also present in this meeting were Hojjat ol-eslam Va'ez Tabassi, Imam Khomeyni's representative in Khorasan Province, and General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

Prior to the president's speech, the governor of Khorasan Province, Koupai submitted a report on the developmental, agricultural and economic activities of the province.

President Khamene'i also stressed the need for harmony and cooperation among the officials of the province and said that personal relations and sentimental feelings should not become a substitute for criteria. Hence, he added all moves should be revolutionary and for the people. He said relationship between the government with the people should be preserved.

President Khamene'i concluding said that the revolutionary organisations were the boon of the Islamic revolution and if it was not for their activities, we would be facing multiple problems.

Clandestine Radios on Khamene'i Visit to Mashhad

Free Voice of Iran

GF201702 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Following the outbreak of unrest in Mashhad, 'Ali Khamene'i proceeded to this city. Yesterday, on the eve of the anniversary of the birth of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, thousands of Mashhad residents, who have been angered by the encirclement of of Ayatollah Tabataba'i Qomi's house, wanted to gather in front of his house, but Khomeyni revolution guards prevented them from doing so. They prevented the people from moving near the house of Ayatollah Qomi.

According to this report, Ayatollah Qomi's house is at present surrounded by guardsmen and nobody can meet or talk with him.

Prominent Mashhad religious scholars, except for Akhond Shirazi, refused to meet with Khamene'i.

Radio Iran Report

GF202034 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Peaceful and glorious demonstrations were held on the eve of the anniversary of the eighth imam's birthday to protest against the regime of the Islamic Republic and in support of Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi. And they continued today.

The demonstrators marched toward the residence of Ayatollah Qomi in Mashhad on predetermined routes. They intended to hold a political protest as a sign of support for this religious source of emulation. However, according to reports reaching us, the armed agents of the Islamic regime closed all routes to the ayatollah's house, stopping the movement of the demonstrators. According to the same report, they then moved toward the shrine of the eighth imam and continued their peaceful demonstrations in the vicinity of the shrine and adjoining avenues. We remind you that since the residence of Ayatollah Tabataba'i-Qomi has been encircled and meetings with him have been banned, the city of Mashhad has been in a constant state of tormoil.

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Following a very strongly worded interview with *Ettela'at* by Ayatollah Qomi in which he strongly attacked the regime of the Islamic Republic and the crime of the government organizations, he has become the target of Ruhollah Khomeyni's vengeance.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Khomeyni's president who was touring Bushehr Province, suddendly arrived in Mashhad. According to a reliable report, immediately after his arrival in Mashhad, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i met the government mullahs and those on the payroll of the shrine of the eighth imam in an emergency session in order to take measures against the continuation of the demonstrations.

Our European bureau reported today that the international telephone lines to Mashhad have been cut off. The radio of the Islamic Republic cited pilgrimage to the shrine of the eighth imam as the reason for the sudden trip to the city by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

According to other reliable reports, since the start of the operations to purge the hojjatiyeh and the extensive battle of the imami faction against this group, a wave of opposition to the rule of Ruhollah Khomeyni has engulfed the hojjatiyeh circles. An open revolt by the hojjatiyeh against the imamis is expected to take place soon. According to reports reaching us, the hojjatiyeh followers want the removal of Ruhollah Khomeyni and consider him an usurper of the position of the lord of the ages. The hojjatiyeh faction which is led by Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Halabi claims that until the time of the appearance of the lord of the ages, no one has the right to act as his agent or make decisions on his behalf and that he will appear when corruption and waste have engulfed the whole world. Khomeyni refuted this claim by the hojjatiyeh some time ago and called the sayings of the Shi'ites on the subject of the appearance of the Mahdi and the necessary conditions, empty and hollow. Without naming himself, Khomeyni claimed that the appearance of his rule is the same as the appearance of the 12th imam of the Shi'ites. Some leaders of the hojjatiyeh faction, including 'Alavi and Tayyeb, are trying to convince a group of hezbollahis that the claims made by Khomeyni are absolute sin and a form of revolt against the Shi'ism of the 12 imams.

Another faction of the regime, on the other hand, is trying to raise Khomeyni's position over that of the 12th imam by criticizing the lord of the ages. Fakhroddin Hejazi, the Tehran deputy in the Majlis, once asked Ruhollah Khomeyni not to remain silent and openly tell the people that he is actually the lord of the ages! Ayatollah Sane'i went even further and announced in *Keyhan* that messages issued by Khomeyni are the lord's messages and are exactly the same as those contained in the holy Koran. According to Sane'i, any message issued by the imam makes one believe that nothing can surpass it, but then one realizes that the next message is even better and has an evolutionary form similar to the verses of the Koran.